

Reminder to check patient eligibility prior to each vaccination

Dear Pharmacy,

This advice has been prepared based on observations regarding common challenges or non-compliances faced by Community Pharmacies administering COVID-19 vaccines. The following reiterates or updates advice previously provided by the Taskforce and PPA, and we request pharmacies to please review carefully.

Check the Australian Immunisation Register prior to every vaccine administration

Pharmacies should check a patient's immunisation history in the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) *prior* to administering a COVID-19 vaccine. This will help to:

- Check the patient's age, to ensure that the patient meets age suitability requirements in line with TGA approvals for the vaccine.
- Check the duration between vaccine doses, to ensure that the patient has a sufficient number of weeks between immunisation events, as per the ATAGI clinical guidance.
- Check that the number of doses is in line with relevant TGA approvals and ATAGI clinical guidance.

This is an expectation of all health care professionals prior to vaccinating patients.

Patients improperly seeking vaccination status

Pharmacies and other sources are reporting potential attempts being made by individuals to have another person receive the COVID-19 Vaccine on their behalf. This is occurring to enable people to achieve a documented 'vaccinated status' without having received the requisite doses of vaccine.

- Pharmacies may report these individuals to the relevant State/Territory authorities and law enforcement, for further investigation.
- Pharmacies are encouraged to take precautions to ensure that the patient receiving the vaccine is the same reported to the AIR, and to routinely request photo identification as confirmation of any patients not known to the pharmacist.

The Taskforce and PPA appreciates the ongoing role of community pharmacies and their tremendous efforts in supporting and implementing the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout to protect our community.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator

